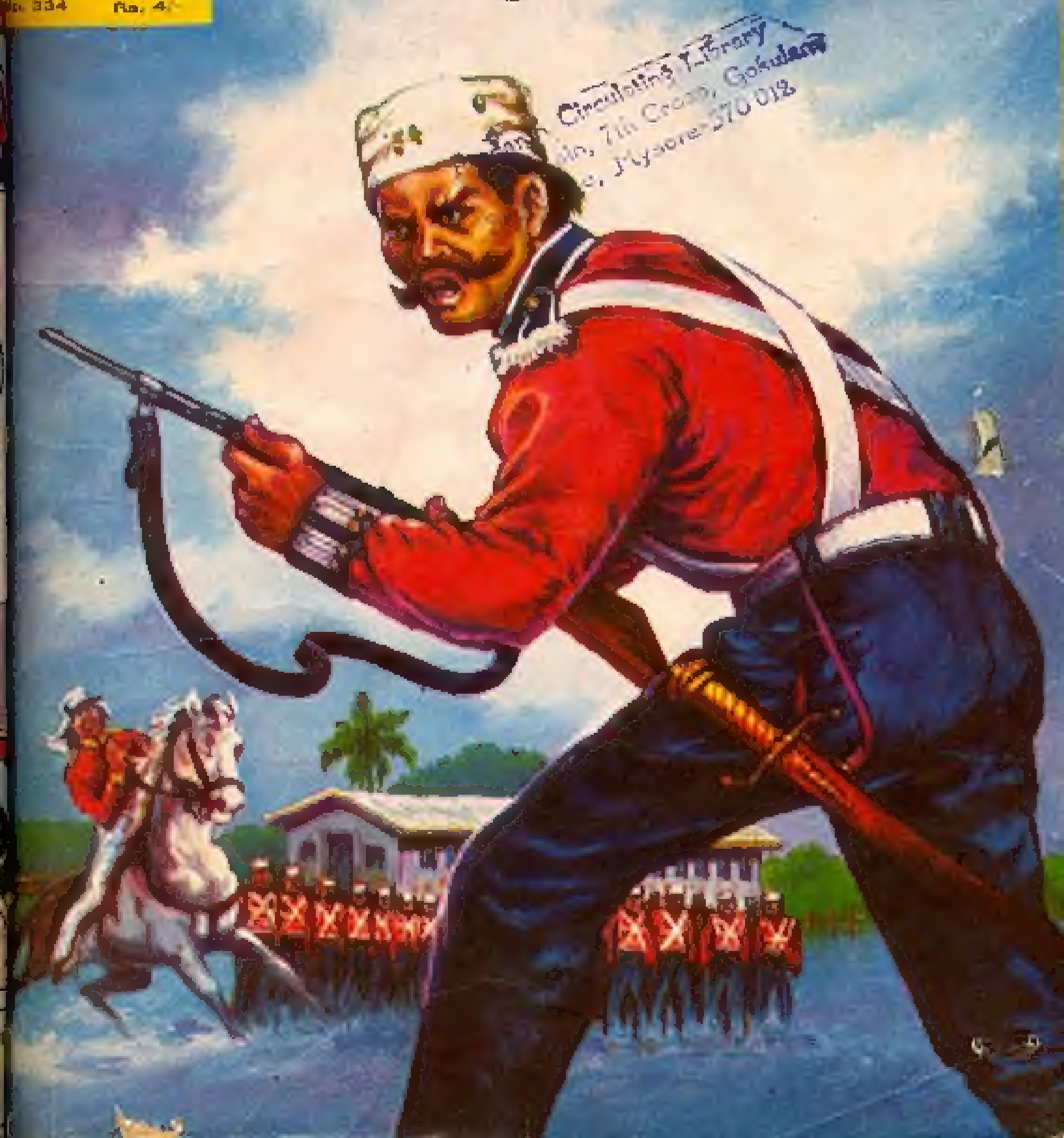




GLIMPSES OF 1857

Mangal Pande



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Mangal Pande

There is a belief that our country won her freedom without fighting for it, that the British gave it almost as a gift. Nothing could be further from the truth than this.

The entire period, from as far back as 1757 till the beginning of the revolt of 1857, was punctuated by a series of struggles against foreign rule.

The revolt itself was triggered off by a growing insensitivity on the part of the British to the deeply cherished ideals and beliefs of the people they ruled; and this insensitivity rose in part, from the firm belief in the superiority of their own race, culture and religion.

This Amar Chitra Katha tells the fascinating story of how Mangal Pande, a sepoy attached to the Native Infantry, fired the first shot which heralded the great Mutiny of 1857.

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MANGAL PANDE

IN THE WINTER OF 1857, BARRACKPORE WAS AN IMPORTANT MILITARY STATION ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER HOOGHLY, 25 KM FROM CALCUTTA.



A HUNDRED YEARS HAD GONE BY SINCE THE BATTLE OF PLASSEY, AND ALMOST THE WHOLE OF INDIA HAD NOW PASSED INTO THE HANDS OF THE BRITISH.

THE TALL HANDSOME INDIAN SEPOYS OF THE 34TH NATIVE INFANTRY REGIMENT, IN THEIR SHINING UNIFORMS, PRESENTED AN IMPRESSIVE PICTURE AS THEY TOOK PART IN THE DAILY PARADE.



WHEN THE TROOPS WERE DISMISSED —

YOU ARE A NEW RECRUIT, AREN'T YOU? HOW ARE YOU GETTING ON, SON? DO YOU LIKE IT HERE?

I LIKE IT. IT IS GOOD TO HAVE FRIENDS AND SHARE WORK AND LEISURE.



JUST THEN —

HEY, THERE! WAIT A MOMENT!





YOU HAVE PAID ME ONLY TEN RUPEES SO FAR. TOMORROW IS PAY DAY. YOU HAVE STILL TO PAY ME SIX RUPEES.

DRILL HAVILDAR SAHS, IT IS JUST TWO MONTHS SINCE I JOINED, AND I AM ALREADY IN DEBT. MAY I PAY YOU IN SMALLER INSTALMENTS OVER THREE MONTHS PLEASE?



NO! IT CAN'T BE DONE! THE EUROPEAN SERGEANT EXPECTS HIS CUT FOR RECRUITING YOU. IF THERE IS A DELAY, WE WILL BOTH BE IN TROUBLE!

ALL RIGHT, I'LL PAY YOU TOMORROW.



I GET ONLY SEVEN RUPEES A MONTH. IT WILL BE HARD TO SAVE ANY MONEY FROM THAT.

DON'T WORRY, SON. ALL OF US HAD TO GO THROUGH THE SAME TROUBLES.



OF COURSE, IT IS BETTER THAN HAVING NO JOB! MY FATHER WILL HAVE ONE MOUTH LESS TO FEED AND I CAN SEND HIM A LITTLE MONEY WHEN I GET MY INCREMENTS.

INCREMENTS! HA! YOU CAN ONLY HOPE TO RISE TO THE RANK OF SUBEDAR WHEN, AT MOST, YOU WILL GET NINE RUPEES A MONTH.

IT WAS DIFFERENT IN THE OLD DAYS. AFTER A VICTORIOUS BATTLE, OUR RAJAS WOULD GRANT US JAGIRS AND HIGH OFFICES.

BUT UNDER THE COMPANIES, EVERYTHING GOES TO THE SAHIB. HE GETS RICH AFTER A FEW YEARS OF SERVICE AND THEN HE TAKES HIS WEALTH TO EUROPE, WHILE WE REMAIN POOR!



YOU CAN'T SAVE MUCH UNLESS YOU AGREE TO GO OVERSEAS. THEN THEY GIVE YOU AN EXTRA BHATTA **



WHAT! CROSS THE BLACK WATERS AND LOSE CASTE! I WOULD NEVER ACCEPT THAT!



WELL, TALKING ABOUT CASTE, YOUNG MAN, THERE ARE WORSE THINGS HAPPENING! YOU'LL SOON FIND OUT!

BUT WHY SPEAK IN RIDDLES, RAMBAL? BETTER TELL HIM THE WHOLE STORY AS YOU WITNESSED IT AT DUM DUM.



WELL, WHEN I WAS AT DUM DUM DEPOT, RECENTLY...



DUM DUM WAS A MILITARY STATION, ABOUT 15 KM FROM CALCUTTA, WHERE AMMUNITION WAS MANUFACTURED.

A CORRUPT FORM OF "COMPANY" AS THE EAST INDIA COMPANY WAS KNOWN.

** IN ALLOWANCE



...I SAW A SEPOY OF THE
2ND GRENADIERS BEING
STOPPED BY A KHALASI



GIVE ME A DRINK
FROM YOUR LOTI,
SIPAH!

WHAT KIND OF JOKE IS
THAT? DON'T YOU KNOW
YOUR SLIGHTEST TOUCH
WOULD DEFILE THE
LOTI... AND ME?



WHY SHOULD YOU FIND MY
TOUCH LOATHSOME, SIPAH!
WHEN YOU DON'T
MIND CHEWING
ON COW'S FAT
AND PIG'S FAT?

WHAT
ARE YOU...



WELL, WATCH OUT! WHEN YOU HAVE A
DRILL WITH THE NEW MUSKET, YOU'LL
BE ASKED TO BITE OFF THE
ENDS OF THE CARTRIDGES...



...THEN TELL ME WHETHER
IT TASTES OF BEEF OR
PORK. HA! HA!



DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
FAT FROM COWS AND
PIGS IS BEING USED TO
GREASE THE CARTRIDGES
FOR THE NEW MUSKET!

THEY WANT TO
DEFILE US!

IT'S DISGUSTING



IT'S ALL PART OF A PLOT TO CONVERT US TO CHRISTIANITY. COL. WHELAN NEVER LOSES ANY OPPORTUNITY TO WARN US THAT IF WE ARE CHRISTIANS, WE WILL BE SAVED!



SAVED! WE WILL BE LOST! OUR CASTE WILL BE LOST! OUR HONOUR LOST! DOES HE KNOW WHAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT?

THAT COL. WHELAN! DON'T TALK ABOUT HIM! HE IS MAD! BUT, OUR BAD SAHIB, GEN. HEARSEY, HAS ASSURED US THAT NO ONE CAN MAKE CHRISTIANS OF US AGAINST OUR WISHES.



BUT WHAT SHALL WE DO ABOUT THE CARTRIDGES?

LET US CHECK IF THE STORY IS TRUE. WE'LL ASK OUR SAHIB.

BUT THE JUNIOR ENGLISH OFFICER DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT. HE REPORTED THE MATTER TO HIS SUPERIOR, MAJ.-GEN. J. B. HEARSEY, GENERAL OF THE DIVISION AT BARRACKPORE.

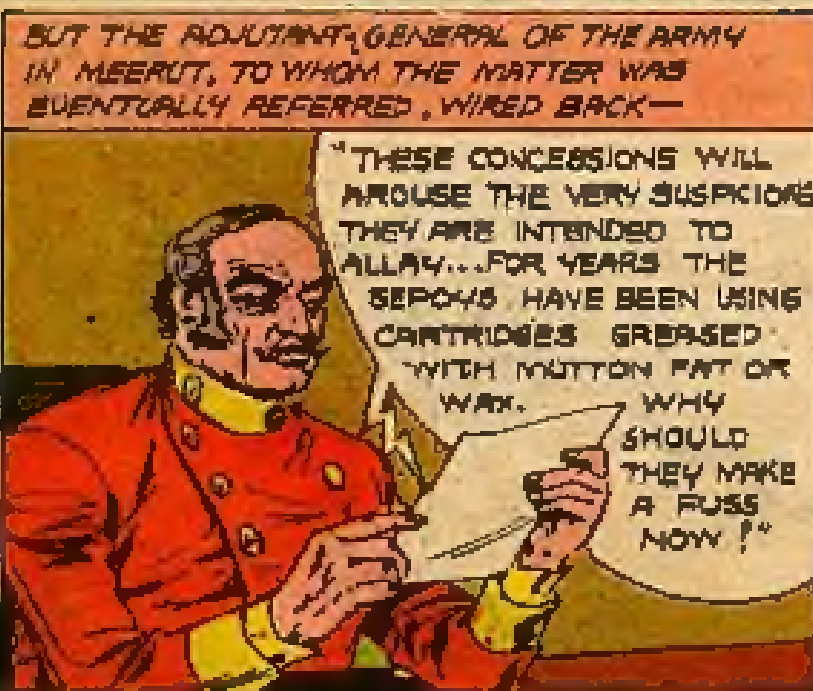
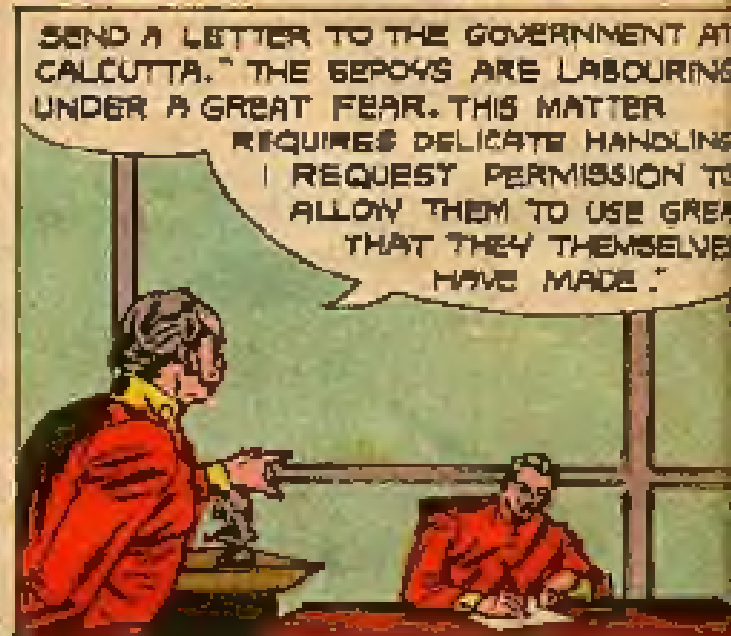


OR, I HAVE TO REPORT THAT OUR SEPOYS BEEM MOST TERRIBLY UPSET. THEY WANT TO KNOW IF LARD AND COW'S FAT ARE BEING USED TO GREASE CARTRIDGES.



YOU SHOULD HAVE REASSURED THEM AT ONCE! YOU KNOW THIS CONCERNS THEIR RELIGION! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE ANY TROUBLE HERE!

I KNOW THAT, SIR, AND I TRIED TO CALM THEM. BUT THEY HAVE HAD THEIR INFORMATION STRAIGHT FROM DUM DUM.



SEN. HANSEY WAS RIGHT. THE RUMOURS RAN THROUGH THE BAZAARS AND PEOPLE EVERYWHERE WERE AGITATED.

COW'S FAT! THINK OF THE POLLUTION.

BETTER TO DIE THAN LET OUR YOUNG MEN BE SUBJECTED TO SUCH HUMILIATION!



PIS'S FAT! THOSE INFIDELS! DO THEY WANT OUR SEPOYS TO BE THROWN OUT OF THE COMMUNITY?

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT. IT'S ALL PART OF THEIR DEVILISH PLANS TO CONVERT US!

YES, BROTHER, WHAT THEY WANT IS TO MAKE US ALL CHRISTIANS. BUT SHOULD WE QUIETLY ALLOW THEM TO DO WHAT THEY LIKE WITH US?



NO! NO! NEVER!

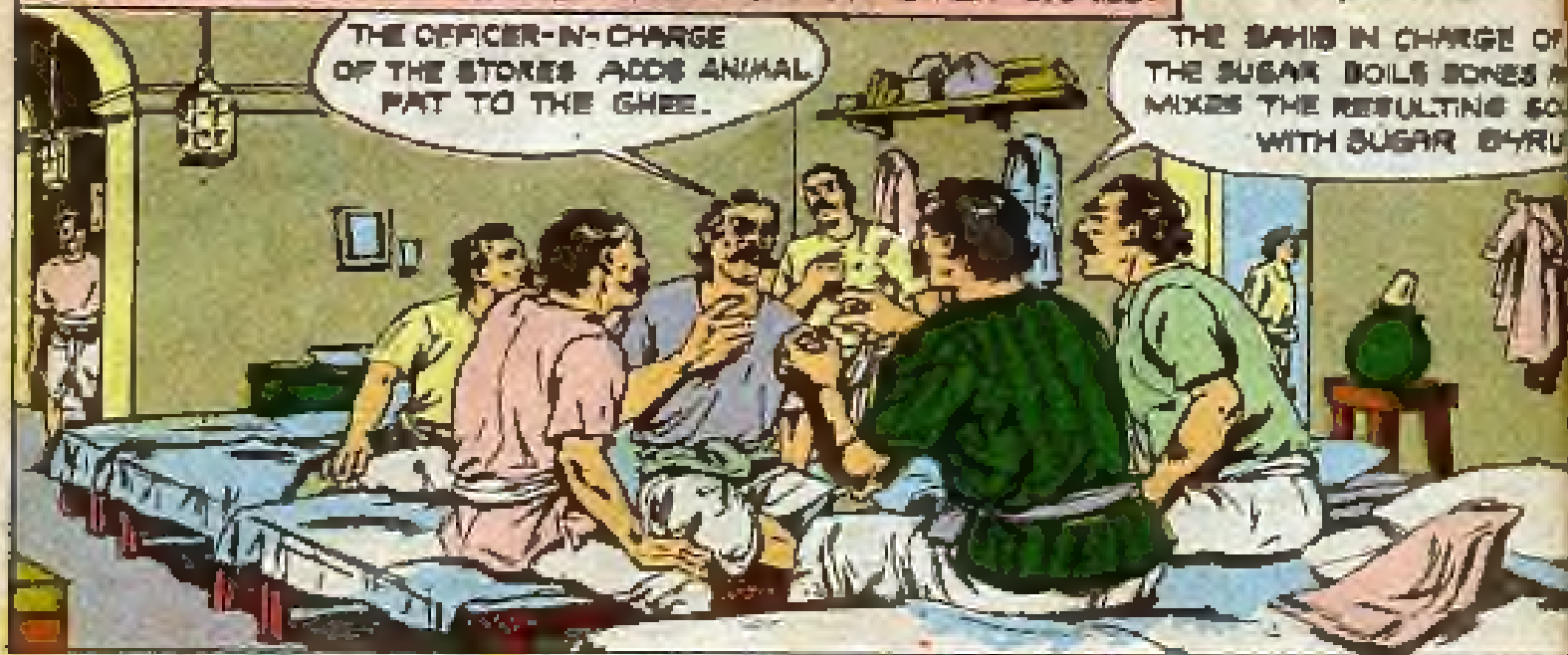
WE WILL NOT SUBMIT!



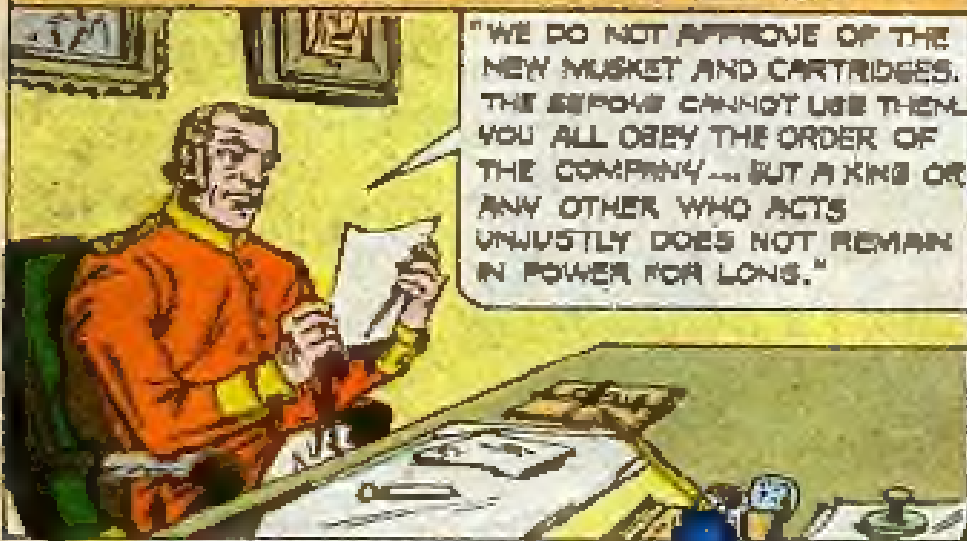
THAT NIGHT, AND ON THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, MYSTERIOUS FIRES RAGED IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS. WERE THESE JUST SYMBOLS OF THE PEOPLE'S ANGER, OR WERE THEY SIGNALS—BEACON FIRES TO STIR PEOPLE INTO ACTION?



THEY FOLLOWED NOCTURNAL MEETINGS, CANTONMENT AFTER CANTONMENT BRETHED WITH AISENTA OVER THE STORY OF THE BRENNED CARTRIDGES AND OTHER STORIES.



AT BARRACKPORE, MAJ. MATTHEWS, OF THE 43RD REGIMENT, RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS PETITION.



A NUMBER OF LETTERS, SIGNED BY SEPOYS, WERE POSTED TO VARIOUS STATIONS OF THE BENGAL ARMY.



A WEEK LATER A DETACHMENT FROM THE 15TH REGIMENT WAS RAISED TO MARCH TO BERNAMPORE ON ROUTINE DUTY



AT BERNAMPORE THEY WERE GREETED EAGERLY BY THEIR COMRADES OF THE 18TH NATIVE INFANTRY



IS THE STORY TRUE THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS US TO USE GUNS FAT AND LARD TO GREASE THE AMMUNITION FOR THEIR NEW RIFLES?



YES - IT'S TRUE! IT'S THEIR INTENTION TO DEFILE US!

HE IS RIGHT! FRESH SUPPLIES OF AMMUNITION HAVE JUST COME FROM CALCUTTA, AND YOU SHOULD SEE THE PAPER IN WHICH IT IS WRAPPED!



PAPER? WHAT'S THAT ABOUT PAPER?

THE PAPER IS FULL OF GREASE. THEY MEAN TO POLLUTE US IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE!

AT BERNAMPORE THE NEXT DAY (FEBRUARY 27) A ROUTINE PARADE OF THE 13TH NATIVE INFANTRY HAD BEEN ORDERED, BUT WHEN THE SEPOYS WERE ASKED TO TAKE THE PERCUSSION CASES -

NO, NO, SIR WE CAN'T ACCEPT THEM

BUT WHY NOT? THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THEM, IS THERE?



SIR THOSE CARTRIDGES ARE POLLUTED EVEN IF WE JUST TOUCH THEM, WE WILL BE DEPLED!

BUT YOU'VE USED THE SEAMUNIA TO BEFORE



NO, SIR, IT'S NOT THE SAME AS THE OLD ONE.

SIR, AND JUST LOOK AT THE PAPER. IT'S FULL OF GREASE!

THAT'S NOT GREASE THIS IS A KIND OF PARCHMENT PAPER!



DON'T ASK US TO TOUCH IT, SIR!

WE WILL LOSE OUR STATUS, WE WILL BE OUTCASTED!

ALL RIGHT, SPEAK TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER



REPORTED BY COL MITCHELL, THE COMMANDING OFFICER, WAS A RATHER IL-TEMPERED MAN.

HOW DARE YOU DISOBEY ORDERS? WE CAN FORCE YOU TO DO ANYTHING WE LIKE.



WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT ANYWAY? THESE CARTRIDGES HAVE BEEN MADE UP BY THE PREVIOUS REGIMENT LAST YEAR—BY YOUR OWN COMRADES!



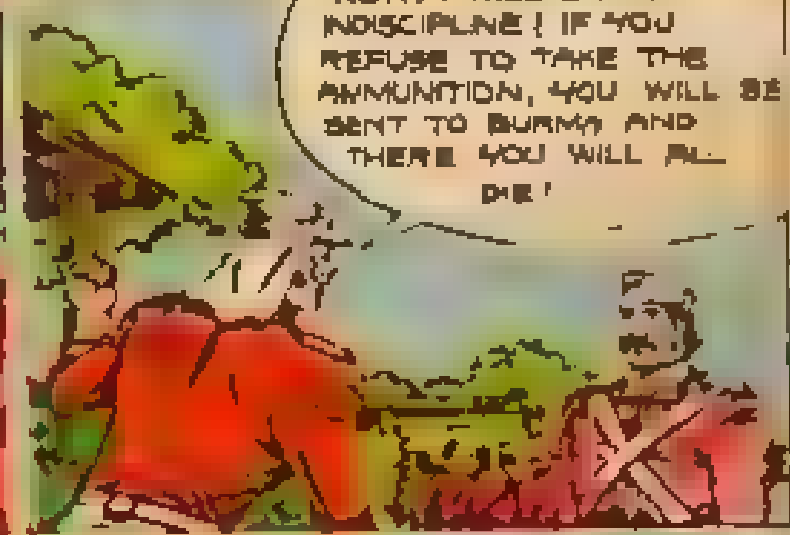
MITCHELL WAS SPEAKING THE TRUTH, BUT HE WAS GREETED BY A STONY SILENCE

HE CANNOT TRUST THIS MAN.



MITCHELL GOT EVEN MORE ANGRY

NOW, I WILL STAND NO DISCIPLINE! IF YOU REFUSE TO TAKE THE AMMUNITION, YOU WILL BE SENT TO BURMA AND THERE YOU WILL ALL DIE!



COL MITCHELL STORMED OFF LEAVING THE MEN DUMB

THE REPORTS WE HEARD MUST BE TRUE

THOSE CARTRIDGES ARE POLLUTED AND HE IS ANGRY AT BEING FOUND OUT!



LATER, AS THE COMMANDING OFFICER DROVE HOME -

THERE IS TROUBLE IN THE OFFICE BUT HOW DO WE MEET IT? WE HAVE NO EUROPEAN TROOPS IN BEHANTOWN

HE SAID THE NATIVE CAVALRY AND ART. REGT. ARE DEPENDABLE DON'T YOU THINK?

YES SIR THINK THEY ARE



THERE MAY NOT BE ANY TROUBLE ALL THE SAME. YOU'D LIKE TO BE PREPARED JUST IN CASE

SOON AFTER IN THE MEANTIME -

HAVE YOU HEARD? THE CC HAS ORDERED OUT THE CAVALRY AND THE ART. REGT.



HE'LL FORCE US TO USE THE GRENADE CARTRIDGES AT GUN POINT

BUT WE WILL RISE! SOUND THE ALARM! BEAT THE DRUM!



AT 10.00 P.M. THAT NIGHT, MITCHELL HAD JUST FALLEN INTO A DEEP SLEEP, WHEN HE WAS AWAKENED BY CONFUSED SOUNDS — A MIXTURE OF DRUMMERY AND LOUD VOICES.

WHAT WAS HAPPENING? THEN THE MEN OF THE 9TH ALL HAD DECIDED TO REBEL!



MITCHELL GOT UP AT ONCE AND STARTED GETTING DRESSED.

'I'LL GO MYSELF AND INFORM THE CAVALRY AND ARTILLERY COMMANDANT TO SET OFF RIGHT NOW FOR THE MANTON LINES.



AT THE MANTON LINES —

CAN YOU HEAR THE CAVALRY GALLOPING DOWN?

IT SOUNDS MORE LIKE THE CLATTER OF ARTILLERY GUN WHEELS!



WITHOUT QUITE KNOWING WHY, THEY WENT TO THE BELL-HOUSE WHERE THE ARMS WERE STORED. THE SERGEANT WARNED THE WORST MEN ONE BY ONE WHAT WAS THE TRUTH AND WHAT WAS NOT BUT ALL FELT A URGENT DREAD.

THEN SOMEONE BOARDED THE MAIN BELL. THE OFFICERS LOOKED AT ONE ANOTHER FEARFULLY.



THE MEN RUSHED TO THE BELL-OF-ARMS, WHERE THEY BELTED THEIR MUSKETS. THEY TOOK ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF THE JERN AMMUNITION THEY HAD REFUSED TO TOUCH IN THE MORNING PARADE!



THEY LOADED THEIR PICES...



AND THEN LOOKED AT EACH OTHER, ABRAY FEAR.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN?



AT THAT INSTANT, THEY HEARD A RUMBLING SOUND. THE TIME, IT WAS DANGEROUSLY CLOSE.

ARTILLERY GUNS!

...AND THE CAVALRY!



NEXT THEY HEARD GALLORING HOOVES.

I CAN SEE THE LIGHT FROM THEIR TORCHES...

...AND THE FLASH OF THEIR SABRES!



THOUGH THEY HAD LOADED MUSKETS IN THEIR HANDS, THE MEN OF THE INFANTRY STOOD STOCK-STILL. NOT A SHOT WAS FIRED.



THEN, THE MOUNTAIN DREW UP A LINE NOT KNOWING WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT



MITCHELL HAD GATHERED TOGETHER HIS EUROPEAN OFFICERS AND THE NATIVE CAVALRY TO THE MOUNTAIN GROUNDS



"IF WE MAKE THE
BLIGHTEST FORWARD MOVE THE
SERPENTS WILL SHOOT IN
SELF DEFENCE—BETTER TO
ORDER THE NATIVE CAVALRY
TO CLOSE IN UPON THEM."



BUT FIRST HE DECIDED TO HAVE ONE LAST
PARLEY WITH THE INFANTRY

HAVE THE CALL
SOUNDED FOR AN
ASSEMBLY OF THE
NATIVE INFANTRY
OFFICERS.



THE SUMMONS WAS OBEYED, BUT MITCHELL
AGAIN LOST HIS TEMPER AND ADDRESSED THE
OFFICERS WITH ANGRY WORDS

THIS IS TREASON! IF THE MEN
DO NOT OBEY, WE WILL BLOW
THE LOT TO SMITHEREENS —
EVEN IF AM MYSELF BLOWN
TOGETHER WITH THEM!



THEY BEGGED HIM NOT TO BE ANGRY, TO HEED THEIR ADVICE

SIR, OUR MEN ARE SIMPLE
PEOPLE. THEY BELIEVE THE
CAVALRY AND ARTILLERY
HAVE BEEN CALLED IN
TO DESTROY THEM!

THEY ARE AFRAID,
SIR, NOT DISLOYAL!



SIR, I AM SURE THEY WILL
COME TO THEIR SENSES IN
THE MORNING IF ONLY YOU
WOULD SEND BACK THE
CAVALRY AND
ARTILLERY NOW



THE NATIVE OFFICERS FINALLY PERSUADED
THE COMMANDING OFFICER TO AGREE

THE GUNS AND CAVALRY WERE TURNED
AWAY INTO THE NIGHT



THE SOLDIERS HEARD A SIGH OF RELIEF WHEN THEY HEARD THE TOUNDING SOUND OF ARTILLERY MOVING AWAY AND THEY SAW THE CAVALRY TORCHES MOVING FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY INTO THE DARKNESS. THEY KNEW THEY WERE SAFE FOR THE MOMENT.



THE NEXT DAY THE 19TH WAS IN MARCHES AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED. PERHAPS THEY HOPED THE INCIDENT WOULD BE OVERLOOKED.

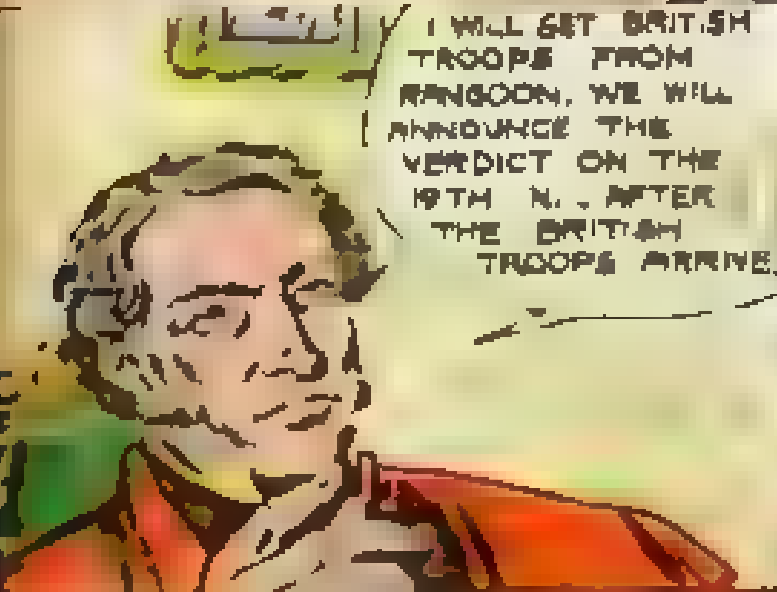


THE BRITISH ARMY AUTHORITIES WERE CLEAR THAT THE 19TH NATIVE INFANTRY WOULD HAVE TO BE DISBANDED.

THIS WORRIED THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN CALCUTTA.

IT IS EASY TO DECREE DISBANDEMENT, BUT HOW DO WE ACCOMPLISH IT WITHOUT THE BACKING OF EUROPEAN FORCES?

THAT'S TRUE, LORD CANNING. OTHER NATIVE REGIMENTS MAY MUTINY IN SYMPATHY.



I WILL GET BRITISH TROOPS FROM RANGOON. WE WILL ANNOUNCE THE VERDICT ON THE 19TH N. AFTER THE BRITISH TROOPS ARRIVE.



ORDER COL. MITCHELL TO MARCH THE MEN OF THE 19TH N.I. TO BARRACKPORE WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT THE VERDICT TO DISBANDE THEM.

RIGHT, SIR.

MEANWHILE, AT BARRACKPORE, THE NEWS OF THE REVOLT OF THE 19TH NATIVE INFANTRY WAS RECEIVED WITH EXCITEMENT

THOSE BARRACKPORE MEN ARE BRAVE! THEY SACRIFICED EVERYTHING!

BUT THEY WILL LOSE THEIR JOBS. THIS DEED WILL NOT GO UNPUNISHED!



THEY MAY LOSE THEIR JOBS, BUT NOT THEIR HONOUR.



DON'T TRUST THE BIRGAR*. ALL OVER THE BAZAR THEY ARE SAYING THAT EUROPEAN CAVALRY AND ARTILLERY ARE COMING TO DESTROY US

I HEARD THAT A SHIP FULL OF EUROPEANS IS ARRIVING AT CALCUTTA SOON!



THE SHIP REFERRED TO WAS THE 'BENTINCK' WHICH WAS TO BRING THE BRITISH TROOPS FROM RANGOON.

GEN. HEARSEY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE BENTINCK UNTIL MUCH LATER. NOW HE WATCHED THE GULLEN FACES OF THE MEN AND WAS WORRIED.

THOSE MYSTERIOUS FIRES...AND NOW THE SILENT, ACCUSING LOOKS



IT'S TIME I TALKED TO THE SEPOYS AND EXPLAINED THINGS



SEY-ERSEN ADDRESSED THE MEN OF THE 54TH LIAISON
BATTALION AT BARRACKPORE IN FLUENT HINDUSTANI

UN-MAINED MEN ARE LEADING YOU ASTRAY
THE RUMOURS ARE NOT TRUE. THE CARTRIDGES
ARE NOT POLLUTED. YOU WILL NOT
BE PUNISHED, BUT THOSE OF
ANOTHER REGIMENT WHO HAVE
OPENLY MUTINED, WILL, IN MY
OPINION, CERTAINLY LOSE
THEIR JOBS !

BUT IF YOU STILL FEEL WORRIED ABOUT
POLLUTION, YOU MAY BITE OFF THE
ENDS OF THE CARTRIDGES
INSTEAD OF BITING
THEM OFF.



BUT IT WAS TOO LATE. MISTRUST HAD BEEN SOWN AND THE MEN COULD NO LONGER FULLY
BELIEVE THE GENERAL.

WHAT'S THE USE OF THAT ?
SHEER FORCE OF HABIT WILL
MAKE US USE OUR TEETH
ANY WAY.

AND IF WE
TELL THE GENERAL WE
WILL NOT USE THOSE
CARTRIDGES, WE WILL LOSE
OUR JOBS. LIKE THE MEN
OF THE OTHER REGIMENT
HE MENTIONED !



DOES IT MEAN WE
ARE GOING TO
USE THOSE
CARTRIDGES !

THE SERJANT WHO POSED THE QUESTION
WAS KNOWN FOR HIS MILD TEMPERAMENT

MANOJAL PANDE, THIS IS
THE FIRST TIME I HAVE
EVER SEEN YOU SHOW AN
INTEREST IN THE
CARTRIDGES !



MANGAL PANDE DID NOT ANSWER HE SIMPLY LOOKED AT THE SPEAKER

YOU DON'T TALK I DO YET THERE IS NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND ME NEITHER OF US ACTS.

WITHOUT UTTERING A WORD, MANGAL PANDE WALKED AWAY

STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT WAS MANGAL PANDE WHO SPOKE

SOME DAYS LATER, ON THE AFTERNOON OF SUNDAY, MARCH 29, THERE WAS TREMENDOUS EXCITEMENT IN THE LINES OF THE 34TH NATIVE INFANTRY

THE WHITE FOLK HAVE COME!

THEY ARE DISEMBARKING AT THE RIVERSIDE!

AND SO MEN HAD ARRIVED TO PREPARE FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE LITTLE VENTURE FROM BERNHAMPOR. BUT THE SERGENTS AT BARRACKPORE WERE PANIC-STROKEN, BELIEVING THAT MANY MORE BRITISH SOLDIERS WOULD SOON COME.

NOW THEY WILL COME HERE AND FINISH US OFF! LET US GET READY AND MEET THEM!

THAT AFTERNOON SET NEWSON, UNAWARE OF ALL THE EXCITEMENT, WAS DOING IN A DARKENED ROOM. SUDDENLY, THE COOL SILENCE WAS DISTURBED



A NATIVE OFFICER ENTERED AND STOPPED AT THE DOOR, BREATHLESS.



AT THE PARADE GROUND, NANGAL PANDE
WAS STALKING UP AND DOWN.



RISE AND TAKE
ARMS, YOU LAZY
BLACKGUARDS! MAKE
HASTE BEFORE THE
ENGLISH MAKE
OUTCASTES
OF US ALL!



THEY WILL DOLE
OUT POLLUTED
CARTRIDGES TO US!
THEY WILL MAKE
PARIANS OF US!



AND WE DO WHATEVER
THEY SAY! EVEN THE
WOMEN IN THE BAZAR
LAUGH AT US!

THE SEPOYS SHOWED THEIR EXCITEMENT
AND INTEREST BY TALKING TO EACH OTHER
AND ECHOING VAGUE CHALLENGES, ALMOST
CHANTING

YES, YES, POLLUTED
CARTRIDGES!

YES, YES, PARIANS,
PARIANS!



LIKE ONE DEVOTED, NANGAL PANDE
CONTINUED TO STUMBLE ACROSS THE OPEN
GROUND SHOUTING, GESTICULATING, AHEAD IS

JOIN ME, YOU BLACKGUARDS
YOU SONS OF DOGS!
STRIKE A BLOW FOR
HONOR TOUS!



HE THREW HIS MUSKET DANGEROUSLY IN THE AIR

JOIN ME!
COME!

NO ONE MOVED.

SUDDENLY THERE WAS THE SOUND OF A
SALLOPPING HORSE

THE
SAHIB!

THE
SAHIB!

IT WAS THE ADJUTANT, LT. BRUSH.

MANGAL PANDE RAISED
HIS MUSKET AND FIRED.

LT BRUSH'S HORSE
STUMBLER AND ..

.. ANIMAL AND RIDER
ROLLED IN THE DUST.

THE ADJUTANT WAS NOT HURT. DRAWING HIS PISTOL. HE RAN TOWARDS MANGAL PANDE



HE FIRED BUT MISSED



MANGAL PANDE DREW HIS TALWAR IT WAS NOW TO BE A HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT



MANGAL PANDE STRUCK DOWN LT. BAUGH.



...AND MIGHT HAVE SECURED HIS MAN HAD NOT SGT HEWSON ARRIVED JUST AT THAT MOMENT AND PREVENTED HIM



DAUNTED, MANGAL PANDE BRAVELY
TOOK ON SST. HEWSON AS WELL ...



... AND HAD HIM THROWN DOWN.



A MUFFLED CRY RANG OUT AMONG THE SEPOYS

SHABASH!

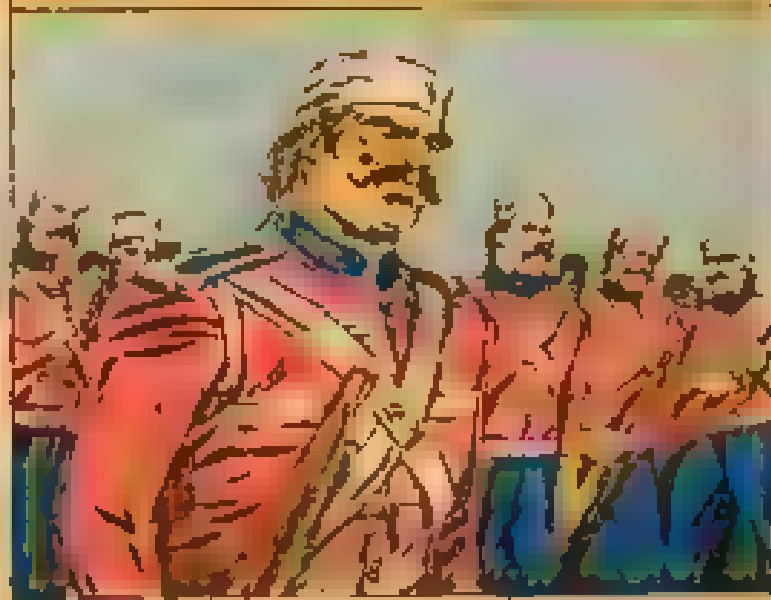


SST HEWSON CALLED TO ISHWARI PRASAD
THE HEAD OF THE NATIVE GUARD FOR AID

YOU, THERE I ORDER YOUR
MEN FORWARD TO GET THIS—
THIS—SON OF A FOOL!



BUT THE GUARD MADE NO MOVE THOUGH
HIS MEN WERE STANDING AROUND HIM



IN FACT, NO LONGER ABLE TO HIDE THEIR FEELINGS, THE MEN STRUCK AT THE FALLEN BRITISH OFFICER THE MOB INSTINCT HAD, UNFORTUNATELY, TAKEN OVER.



MEANWHILE, MANGAL PANDE RAISED HIS TALWAR AGAIN TO STRIKE---



...BUT HIS WRIST WAS SEIZED FAST BY SEPOY SHAIKH PALTU.



LET GO OF MY ARM!

NO! NO! LEAVE HIM ALONE NOW!

HE HELD MANGAL PANDE FAST, GIVING THE OFFICER A CHANCE TO GET AWAY



THE CROWD NOW AGAIN PLAYED THE PART OF SPECTATOR. THEY DID NOT COME TO THE AID OF MANGAL PANDE, AS THEY HAD NOT EARLIER COME TO THE AID OF THE BRITISH OFFICERS.



AND THERE WAS MORE SPECTACLE YET TO COME, WITH THE ENTRANCE OF THE PROSELYTIZING COL. WHELAN.

SEIZE THE MUT NEER!



THE HEAD GUARD MERELY MUTTERED

THIS WON'T DO...



THE COLONEL LOOKED ON HELPLESSLY THROUGH HIS GOLD-RIMMED SPECTACLES



HE STUMBLED OFF TO REPORT TO THE STATION BRIGADIER, CHARLES GRANT.



BRIGADIER GRANT, WHO CAME NEXT, WAS GREETED WITH MILD CHEERS, BUT NOBODY MOVED. THE MEN SEEMED TO THINK IT WAS ALL A HUGE JOKE. THEY EXCHANGED LOOKS AND LAUGHED...



... WHILE MANGAL PANDE SWAGGERED UP AND DOWN.



JOIN ME, YOU DOGS. COME ON! COME ON!

AND THEN GEN. HEARSEY RODE UP FLANKED BY HIS TWO SONS.



GEN. HEARSEY COOLLY RODE UP TO BRIGADIER GRANT AND ADDRESSED HIM IN RINGING TONES.



WHY HAVEN'T YOU ARRESTED THIS MAN?

THE QUARTER-GUARD WOULD NOT OBEY OUR ORDERS!

LET'S SEE ABOUT THAT!



LOOK OUT, SIR! HIS MUSKET IS LOADED!

CONFOUND HIS MUSKET!



CALMLY RIDING UP TO THE GUARD, GEN. HEARSEY AIMED HIS REVOLVER AT HIS HEAD.

THE FIRST MAN WHO REFUSES TO MARCH, WHEN I GIVE THE ORDER, WILL BE SHOT DEAD! QUICK MARCH!



LIKE WELL-OILED CLOCKWORK SOLDIERS, THEY MARCHED FORWARD.



MANGAL PANDE SAW THAT THE BATTLE WAS LOST. HIS HOUR OF GLORY WAS OVER.

THESE "FERINGHEES" WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND US. ONLY IGNOMINY AT THE HANDS OF THE GOVERNMENT AWAITS ME NOW.

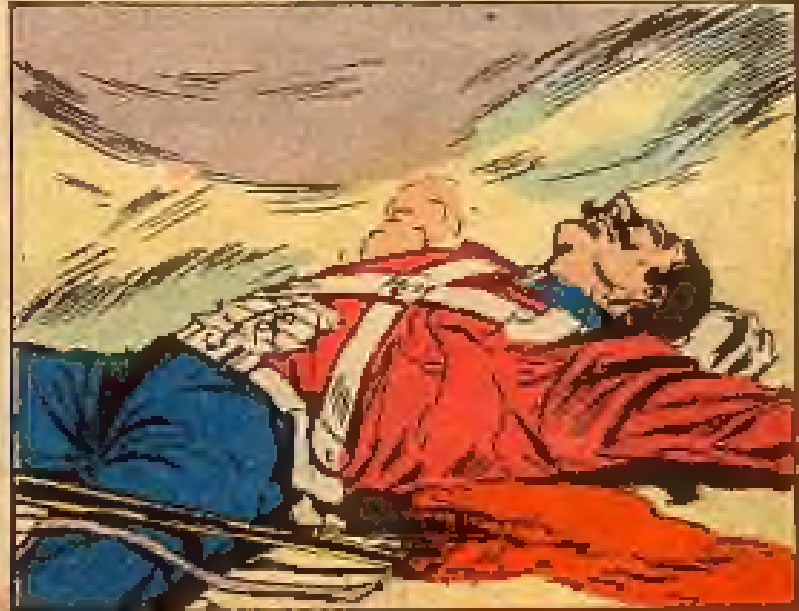


HE RESOLVED TO DIE RATHER THAN FACE CAPTURE. PLACING THE MUZZLE OF HIS MUSKET AGAINST HIS BREAST...

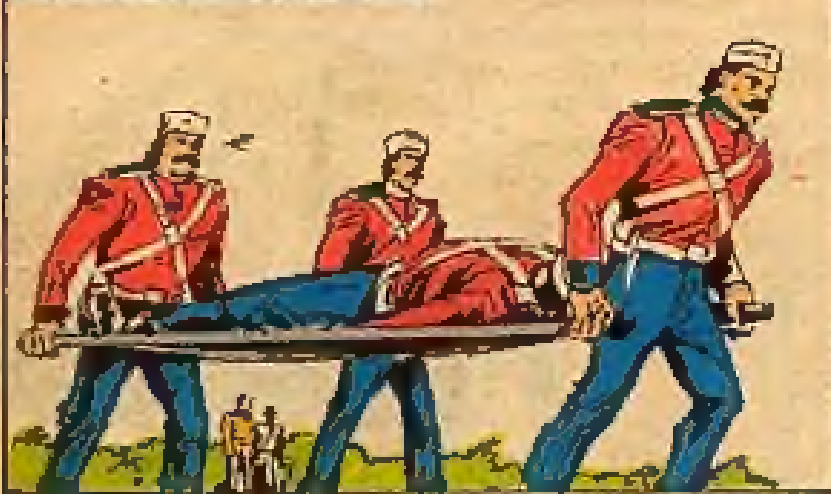


HE PRESSED THE TRIGGER.

DEATH IS PREFERABLE TO DISHONOUR.



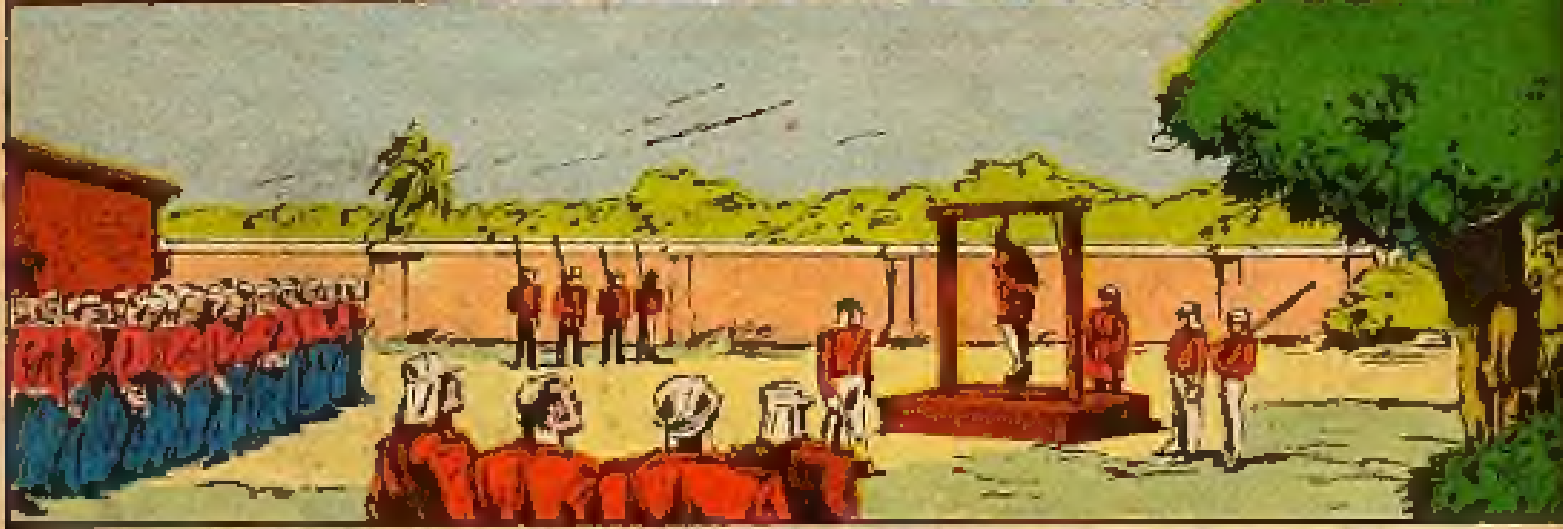
BUT IT WAS NOT TO BE AS HE HAD HOPED. MANGAL PANDE DID NOT DIE, HE WAS SEVERELY WOUNDED.



SOME DAYS LATER, HE WAS TRIED. HE WAS ASKED WHO HAD INCITED HIM TO MUTINY, BUT HE REFUSED TO SQUEAL.



HE WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH AND, ON APRIL 8, 1857 MANGAL PANDE, WAS HANGED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE WHOLE REGIMENT. RETRIBUTION HAD COME SWIFTLY.



ISHWARY PRASAD, HEAD GUARD, WAS SENTENCED AND EXECUTED ON APRIL 21. IT TOOK THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FIVE WEEKS TO DECIDE ON WHAT PUNISHMENT TO METE OUT TO THE OTHERS. FINALLY IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE REST OF THE 34TH NATIVE INFANTRY SHOULD BE DISARMED AND DISBANDED.



THEY WERE STRIPPED EVEN OF THEIR UNIFORMS. BUT THEY WERE ALLOWED TO KEEP THEIR KILMARNOCK CAPS WHICH THEY HAD THEMSELVES PAID FOR. THEY TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT, CONTEMPTUOUSLY.

WHO WANTS TO KEEP THE CAPS? LET THEM HAVE THOSE AS WELL!

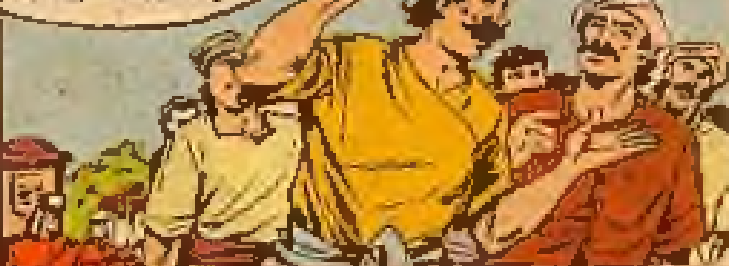


THEY WERE MARCHED OUT OF THE CANTONMENT UNDER AN ESCORT OF EUROPEAN TROOPS.



OUTSIDE THE CANTONMENT AREA, FREE AT LAST OF THEIR OPPRESSORS —

PUNISHMENT? YOU CALL THIS PUNISHMENT? BROTHERS, WE ARE FREE!



A WEIGHT SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN LIFTED OFF THEIR SHOULDERS.

THOSE WHO HAD HUMILIATED THEM WERE NOW POWERLESS TO HARM THEM FURTHER. A RIPPLE OF LIGHT-HEARTED LAUGHTER PASSED THROUGH THEIR RANKS.



WHEN THE MEN OF THE 34TH NATIVE INFANTRY RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES, THEY WERE TREATED AS HEROES.



AND THEY SPREAD THE DISAFFECTION FAR. SOON THE SURROUNDING AREAS WERE AFLAME. THE GREAT MUTINY HAD BEGUN. AND MANGAL PANDE HAD STRUCK THE FIRST BLOW.



1. BARRACKPORE
March 29, 1857
2. MEERUT
May 10, 1857
3. DELHI
May 11, 1857
4. FEROZEPUR
May 13, 1857
5. LUCKNOW
May 30, 1857
6. VARANASI
June 4, 1857
7. KANPUR
June 4, 1857
8. FAZABAD
June 7, 1857